

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Reopening of a Portion of State Outside Waters to Recreational and Commercial Fishing

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953.B and R.S. 49:967.D of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons, and R.S. 56:6.1 which provides the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries with authority to declare a closed season on any and all species of fish found or existing in the waters of the state, and a resolution adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on May 6, 2010 which granted the Secretary the authority to open any area, or re-open any previously closed area, of inside waters to shrimping based upon biological and technical data, the secretary hereby opens that portion of state outside waters seaward of the inside/outside shrimp line as described in R.S.56:495 from the eastern shore of the Empire Canal at 89 degrees 36 minutes 19.9 seconds west longitude westward to the western shore of Belle Pass at 90 degrees 13 minutes 36 seconds west longitude to all recreational and commercial fishing effective immediately May 12, 2010.

The Deep Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of these coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to be made to minimize the potential threats to fish and other aquatic life. As a precaution, this area had been closed to all recreational and commercial fishing by the secretary on May 9, 2010. Based upon the most recent information available, the secretary has determined that this area can currently be re-opened.

Robert J. Barham
Secretary

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